

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6441

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's business center program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2022

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Ms. TENNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's business center program, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the "Women's Business  
5 Centers Improvement Act of 2022".

**6 SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER**

**7 PROGRAM.**

8       Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656)  
9 is amended to read as follows:

1   **“SEC. 29. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

2       “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3           “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
4       ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-  
5       ministrator of the Office of Women’s Business Own-  
6       ership established under subsection (k).

7           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
8       tity’ means—

9              “(A) an organization described in section  
10       501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
11       and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)  
12       of such Code;

13              “(B) a State, regional, or local economic  
14       development organization, if the organization  
15       certifies that grant funds received under this  
16       section will not be commingled with other  
17       funds;

18              “(C) an institution of higher education (as  
19       defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
20       Act of 1965), unless such institution is cur-  
21       rently receiving a grant under section 21;

22              “(D) a development, credit, or finance cor-  
23       poration chartered by a State, if such corpora-  
24       tion certifies that grant funds received under  
25       this section will not be commingled with other  
26       funds; or

1                 “(E) any combination of entities listed in  
2                 subparagraphs (A) through (D).

3                 “(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND  
4                 CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term ‘small business  
5                 concern owned and controlled by women’ has the  
6                 meaning given under section 3(n).

7                 “(4) RESOURCE PARTNERS.—The term ‘re-  
8                 source partners’ means small business development  
9                 centers, chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Ex-  
10                 ecutives (established under section 8(b)(1)(B)), and  
11                 Veteran Business Outreach Centers (described under  
12                 section 32).

13                 “(5) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER.—The term  
14                 ‘women’s business center’ means the location at  
15                 which counseling and training on the management,  
16                 operations (including manufacturing, services, and  
17                 retail), access to capital, international trade, govern-  
18                 ment procurement opportunities, and any other mat-  
19                 ter that is needed to start, maintain, or expand a  
20                 small business concern owned and controlled by  
21                 women.

22                 “(6) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER ASSOCIA-  
23                 TION.—The term ‘Women’s Business Center Asso-  
24                 ciation’ means a membership organization formed by

1 women's business centers to pursue matters of com-  
2 mon concern.

3 “(b) AUTHORITY.—

4 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a  
5 Women's Business Center Program under which the  
6 Administrator may enter into a cooperative agree-  
7 ment with an eligible entity to provide a grant to  
8 such eligible entity to operate one or more women's  
9 business centers for the benefit of small business  
10 concerns owned and controlled by women.

11 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A women's business cen-  
12 ter established using funds made available under  
13 this section shall be designed to provide entrepre-  
14 neurial counseling and training that meets the needs  
15 of the small business concerns owned and controlled  
16 by women, especially such concerns owned and con-  
17 trolled by women who are both socially and economi-  
18 cally disadvantaged (as defined under section 8(a)),  
19 and shall provide—

20 “(A) financial assistance, including coun-  
21 seling and training on how to—

22 “(i) apply for and secure business  
23 credit and investment capital;

24 “(ii) prepare and present financial  
25 statements; and

1                     “(iii) manage cash flow and other fi-  
2                     nancial operations of a small business con-  
3                     cern;

4                     “(B) management assistance, including  
5                     counseling and training on how to plan, orga-  
6                     nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-  
7                     ity and function of a small business concern;  
8                     and

9                     “(C) marketing assistance, including coun-  
10                  seling and training on how to—

11                  “(i) identify and segment domestic  
12                  and international market opportunities;

13                  “(ii) prepare and execute marketing  
14                  plans;

15                  “(iii) develop pricing strategies;

16                  “(iv) locate contract opportunities;

17                  “(v) negotiate contracts; and

18                  “(vi) use various public relations and  
19                  advertising techniques.

20                  “(3) TYPES OF GRANTS.—

21                  “(A) INITIAL GRANT.—The amount of an  
22                  initial grant, which shall be for a 5-year term,  
23                  provided under this subsection to an eligible en-  
24                  tity shall be not more than \$300,000 annually  
25                  (as such amount is annually adjusted by the

1           Administrator to reflect the change in infla-  
2           tion).

3           “(B) CONTINUATION GRANTS.—The Ad-  
4           ministrator may award a continuation grant,  
5           which shall be for a 5-year term, of not more  
6           than \$300,000 annually (as such amount is an-  
7           nually adjusted by the Administrator to reflect  
8           the change in inflation) to an eligible entity  
9           that received an initial grant under subpara-  
10          graph (A). There shall be no limitation on the  
11          number of continuation grants an eligible entity  
12          may receive under this section.

13          “(c) APPLICATION.—

14          “(1) INITIAL GRANTS AND CONTINUATION  
15          GRANTS.—To receive an initial grant or continuation  
16          grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-  
17          mit an application to the Administrator in such  
18          form, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
19          tion as the Administrator may require, including—

20           “(A) a certification that the eligible enti-  
21           ty—

22           “(i) has designated an executive direc-  
23           tor or program manager, who may be com-  
24           pensated using grant funds awarded under  
25           this section or other sources, to manage

1           each women's business center for which a  
2           grant under subsection (b) is sought; and

3                 “(ii) meets accounting and reporting  
4                 requirements established by the Director of  
5                 the Office of Management and Budget;

6                 “(B) information demonstrating the expe-  
7                 rience and effectiveness of the eligible entity  
8                 in—

9                 “(i) providing entrepreneurial coun-  
10                 seling and training described under sub-  
11                 section (b)(2);

12                 “(ii) providing training and services to  
13                 a representative number of women who are  
14                 both socially and economically disadvan-  
15                 taged; and

16                 “(iii) working with resource partners,  
17                 offices of the Administration, and other  
18                 public and private entities engaging in en-  
19                 trepreneurial and small business develop-  
20                 ment; and

21                 “(C) a 5-year plan that—

22                 “(i) includes information relating to  
23                 the assistance to be provided by each wom-  
24                 en's business center in the area in which  
25                 each such center is located;

1                 “(ii) describes the ability of the eligible  
2                 entity to meet the needs of the market  
3                 to be served by each women’s business center;  
4

5                 “(iii) describes the ability of the eligible  
6                 entity to obtain the matching funds required  
7                 under subsection (e); and

8                 “(iv) describes the ability of the eligible  
9                 entity to provide entrepreneurial counseling and training described under sub-  
10                 section (b)(2), including to a representative  
11                 number of women who are both socially  
12                 and economically disadvantaged.

13                 “(2) RECORD RETENTION.—

14                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
15                 shall maintain a copy of each application submitted  
16                 under this subsection for not less than  
17                 5 years.

18                 “(B) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Administrator  
19                 shall take steps to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the paperwork  
20                 burden associated with carrying out subparagraph (A).

21                 “(d) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

1                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients of  
2 initial grants, the Administrator shall consider—

3                     “(A) the experience of the applicant in pro-  
4 viding entrepreneurial counseling and training;

5                     “(B) the amount of time needed for the  
6 applicant to commence operation of a women’s  
7 business center;

8                     “(C) in consultation with a Women’s Busi-  
9 ness Center Association, the capacity of the ap-  
10 plicant to meet the accreditation standards es-  
11 tablished under subsection (k)(4) in a timely  
12 manner;

13                     “(D) the ability of the applicant to sustain  
14 operations, including the applicant’s ability to  
15 obtain matching funds under subsection (e), for  
16 a 5-year period;

17                     “(E) the proposed location of a women’s  
18 business center to be operated by the applicant  
19 and the location’s proximity to Veteran Busi-  
20 ness Outreach Centers and to recipients of  
21 grants under section 8(b)(1) or 21;

22                     “(F) the population density of the area to  
23 be served by the women’s business center oper-  
24 ated by the applicant; and

1                 “(G) the advice and counsel of a Women’s  
2                 Business Center Association to determine areas  
3                 with unmet needs and the likelihood that the  
4                 recipient will become accredited.

5                 “(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

6                 “(A) RULEMAKING.—The Administrator  
7                 shall issue regulations to specify the criteria for  
8                 review and selection of applicants under this  
9                 subsection.

10                 “(B) MODIFICATIONS PROHIBITED AFTER  
11                 ANNOUNCEMENT.—With respect to a public an-  
12                 nouncement of any opportunity to be awarded  
13                 a grant under this section made by the Admin-  
14                 istrator pursuant to subsection (l)(1), the Ad-  
15                 ministrator may not modify regulations issued  
16                 pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect to  
17                 such opportunity unless required to do so by an  
18                 Act of Congress or an order of a Federal court.

19                 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
20                 in this paragraph may be construed as prohib-  
21                 iting the Administrator from modifying the reg-  
22                 ulations issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
23                 (after providing an opportunity for notice and  
24                 comment) as such regulations apply to an op-  
25                 portunity to be awarded a grant under this sec-

1           tion that the Administrator has not yet publicly  
2           announced pursuant to subsection (l)(1).

3         “(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (5),  
5           upon approval of an application submitted under  
6           subsection (e), the eligible entity shall agree to ob-  
7           tain contributions from non-Federal sources—

8           “(A) in the first and second year of the  
9           term of an initial grant, if applicable, 1 non-  
10          Federal dollar for every 2 Federal dollars; and

11           “(B) in each subsequent year of the term  
12          of an initial grant, if applicable, or for the term  
13          of a continuation grant, 1 non-Federal dollar  
14          for each Federal dollar.

15           “(2) FORM OF MATCHING FUNDS.—Not more  
16          than one-half of non-Federal matching funds de-  
17          scribed under paragraph (1) may be in the form of  
18          in-kind contributions that are budget line items only,  
19          including office equipment and office space.

20           “(3) SOLICITATION.—Notwithstanding any  
21          other provision of law, an eligible entity may—

22           “(A) solicit cash and in-kind contributions  
23          from private individuals and entities to be used  
24          to operate a women’s business center; and

1                 “(B) use amounts made available by the  
2                 Administrator under this section for the cost of  
3                 such solicitation and management of the con-  
4                 tributions received.

5                 “(4) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Admin-  
6                 istrator may disburse an amount not greater than  
7                 25 percent of the total amount of a grant awarded  
8                 to an eligible entity before such eligible entity ob-  
9                 tains the matching funds described under paragraph  
10                 (1).

11                 “(5) FAILURE TO OBTAIN MATCHING FUNDS.—  
12                 If an eligible entity fails to obtain the required  
13                 matching funds described under paragraph (1), the  
14                 eligible entity may not be eligible to receive advance  
15                 disbursements pursuant to paragraph (4) during the  
16                 remainder of the term, if applicable, of an initial  
17                 grant awarded under this section. Before approving  
18                 such eligible entity for a continuation grant under  
19                 this section, the Administrator shall make a written  
20                 determination, including the reasons for such deter-  
21                 mination, of whether the Administrator believes that  
22                 the eligible entity will be able to obtain the requisite  
23                 matching funding under paragraph (1) for such con-  
24                 tinuation grant.

25                 “(6) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

1                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by an  
2                 eligible entity and in accordance with this para-  
3                 graph, the Administrator may waive, in whole  
4                 or in part, the requirement to obtain matching  
5                 funds under paragraph (1) for a grant awarded  
6                 under this section for the eligible entity for a 1-  
7                 year term of the grant.

8                 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining  
9                 whether to issue a waiver under this paragraph,  
10                 the Administrator shall consider—

11                 “(i) the economic conditions affecting  
12                 the eligible entity;

13                 “(ii) the demonstrated ability of the  
14                 eligible entity to raise non-Federal funds;  
15                 and

16                 “(iii) the performance of the eligible  
17                 entity under the initial grant.

18                 “(C) LIMITATION.—The Administrator  
19                 may not issue a waiver under this paragraph if  
20                 the Administrator determines that granting the  
21                 waiver would undermine the credibility of the  
22                 Women’s Business Center Program.

23                 “(7) EXCESS NON-FEDERAL DOLLARS.—The  
24                 amount of non-Federal dollars obtained by an eligi-  
25                 ble entity that is greater than the amount that is re-

1       quired to be obtained by the eligible entity under  
2       this subsection shall not be subject to the require-  
3       ments of part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regu-  
4       lations, or any successor thereto, if such amount of  
5       non-Federal dollars—

6                 “(A) is not used as matching funds for  
7                 purposes of implementing the Women’s Busi-  
8                 ness Center Program; and

9                 “(B) was not obtained by using funds  
10               granted under the Women’s Business Center  
11               Program.

12                 “(8) CARRYOVER.—An eligible entity may use  
13               excess non-Federal dollars described in paragraph  
14               (7) to satisfy the matching funds requirement under  
15               paragraph (1) for the subsequent 1-year grant term,  
16               if applicable, except that such amounts shall be sub-  
17               ject to the requirements of part 200 of title 2, Code  
18               of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

19                 “(f) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

20                 “(1) SEPARATION OF FUNDS.—An eligible enti-  
21               ty shall—

22                 “(A) operate a women’s business center  
23               under this section separately from other  
24               projects, if any, of the eligible entity; and

1               “(B) separately maintain and account for  
2       any grant funds received under this section.

3               “(2) EXAMINATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

4               “(A) REQUIRED SITE VISIT.—Before re-  
5       ceiving an initial grant under this section, each  
6       applicant shall have a site visit by an employee  
7       of the Administration, in order to ensure that  
8       the applicant has sufficient resources to provide  
9       the services for which the grant is being pro-  
10      vided.

11               “(B) ANNUAL REVIEW.—An employee of  
12       the Administration shall—

13               “(i) conduct an annual programmatic  
14       and financial examination of each eligible  
15       entity, as described in subsection (g); and

16               “(ii) provide the results of such exam-  
17       ination to the eligible entity.

18               “(3) REMEDIATION OF PROBLEMS.—

19               “(A) PLAN OF ACTION.—If an examination  
20       of an eligible entity conducted under paragraph  
21       (2)(B) identifies any problems, the eligible enti-  
22       ty shall, within 45 calendar days of receiving a  
23       copy of the results of such examination, provide  
24       the Assistant Administrator with a plan of ac-

1           tion, including specific milestones, for cor-  
2           recting such problems.

3           “(B) PLAN OF ACTION REVIEW BY THE AS-  
4           SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Assistant Ad-  
5           ministrator shall review each plan of action sub-  
6           mitted under subparagraph (A) within 30 cal-  
7           endar days of receiving such plan. If the Assis-  
8           tant Administrator determines that such plan—

9                 “(i) will bring the eligible entity into  
10              compliance with all the terms of a coopera-  
11              tive agreement described in subsection (b),  
12              the Assistant Administrator shall approve  
13              such plan; or

14                 “(ii) is inadequate to remedy the  
15              problems identified in the annual examina-  
16              tion to which the plan of action relates, the  
17              Assistant Administrator shall set forth  
18              such reasons in writing and provide such  
19              determination to the eligible entity within  
20              15 calendar days of such determination.

21           “(C) AMENDMENT TO PLAN OF ACTION.—  
22           An eligible entity receiving a determination  
23           under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall have 30 cal-  
24           endar days from the receipt of the determina-  
25           tion to amend the plan of action to satisfy the

1           problems identified by the Assistant Administrator  
2           and resubmit such plan to the Assistant  
3           Administrator.

4           “(D) AMENDED PLAN REVIEW BY THE AS-  
5           SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—Within 15 calendar  
6           days of the receipt of an amended plan of ac-  
7           tion under subparagraph (C), the Assistant Ad-  
8           ministrator shall either approve or reject such  
9           plan and provide such approval or rejection in  
10          writing to the eligible entity.

11          “(E) APPEAL OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-  
12          TRATOR DETERMINATION.—

13          “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Assistant  
14          Administrator rejects an amended plan  
15          under subparagraph (D), the eligible entity  
16          shall have the opportunity to appeal such  
17          decision to the Administrator, who may  
18          delegate such appeal to an appropriate of-  
19          ficer of the Administration.

20          “(ii) OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLA-  
21          NATION.—Any appeal described under  
22          clause (i) shall provide an opportunity for  
23          the eligible entity to provide, in writing, an  
24          explanation of why the eligible entity’s  
25          amended plan remedies the problems iden-

1                         tified in the annual examination conducted  
2                         under paragraph (2)(B).

3                             “(iii) NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.—  
4                             The Administrator shall provide to the eli-  
5                             gible entity a determination of the appeal,  
6                             in writing, not later than 15 calendar days  
7                             after the eligible entity files an appeal  
8                             under this subparagraph.

9                             “(iv) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ACT.—

10                         If the Administrator fails to act on an ap-  
11                         peal made under this subparagraph within  
12                         the 15-day period specified under clause  
13                         (iii), the eligible entity’s amended plan of  
14                         action submitted under subparagraph (C)  
15                         shall be deemed to be approved.

**16                          “(4) TERMINATION OF GRANT.—**

17                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
18                 shall terminate a grant to an eligible entity  
19                 under this section if the eligible entity fails to  
20                 comply with—

21                             “(i) a plan of action approved by the  
22                             Assistant Administrator under paragraph  
23                             (3)(B)(i); or

1           under paragraph (3)(D) or approved on  
2           appeal under paragraph (3)(E).

3           “(B) APPEAL OF TERMINATION.—An eligi-  
4           ble entity shall have the opportunity to chal-  
5           lenge the termination of a grant under subparagraph  
6           (A) on the record and after an oppor-  
7           tunity for a hearing.

8           “(C) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—A deter-  
9           mination made pursuant to subparagraph (B)  
10           shall be considered final agency action for the  
11           purposes of chapter 7 of title 5, United States  
12           Code.

13           “(5) CONSULTATION WITH MAJORITY WOMEN’S  
14           BUSINESS CENTER ASSOCIATION.—If on the date of  
15           the enactment of this subsection, a majority of wom-  
16           en’s business centers that are operating pursuant to  
17           agreements with the Administration are members of  
18           an individual Women’s Business Center Association,  
19           the Administrator shall—

20           “(A) recognize the existence and activities  
21           of such Association; and

22           “(B) consult with the Association on, and  
23           negotiate with the Association in the develop-  
24           ment of documents with respect to—

1                     “(i) announcing the annual scope of  
2                     activities pursuant to this section;

3                     “(ii) requesting proposals to deliver  
4                     assistance as provided in this section; and

5                     “(iii) governing the general operations  
6                     and administration of women’s business  
7                     centers, specifically including the develop-  
8                     ment of regulations and a uniform nego-  
9                     tiated cooperative agreement for use on an  
10                    annual basis when entering into individual  
11                    cooperative agreements with women’s busi-  
12                    ness centers.

13                    “(6) ENFORCEMENT.—

14                    “(A) GRANTS.—The Assistant Adminis-  
15                    trator shall develop policies and procedures to  
16                    minimize the possibility of awarding a grant to  
17                    an eligible entity that will operate a women’s  
18                    business center that likely will not remain in  
19                    compliance with program and financial require-  
20                    ments.

21                    “(B) INDIVIDUAL COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
22                    MENTS.—The Assistant Administrator shall en-  
23                    force the terms of any individual cooperative  
24                    agreement described in paragraph (5)(B)(iii).

25                    “(g) PROGRAM EXAMINATION.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall—

2               “(A) develop and implement an annual  
3               programmatic and financial examination of  
4               each eligible entity receiving a grant under this  
5               section, under which each such eligible entity  
6               shall provide to the Administration—

7                   “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-  
8                   tual expenditures for costs incurred during  
9                   the preceding year; and

10                  “(ii) documentation regarding the  
11               amount of matching assistance from non-  
12               Federal sources obtained and expended by  
13               the eligible entity during the preceding  
14               year in order to meet the requirements of  
15               subsection (e) and, with respect to any in-  
16               kind contributions described in subsection  
17               (e)(2) that were used to satisfy the re-  
18               quirements of subsection (e), verification of  
19               the existence and valuation of those con-  
20               tributions; and

21                  “(B) analyze the results of each such ex-  
22               amination and, based on that analysis, make a  
23               determination regarding the programmatic and  
24               financial viability of each women’s business cen-  
25               ter operated by the eligible entity.

1               “(2) CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED FUNDING.—

2               In determining whether to award a continuation  
3               grant to an eligible entity, the Administrator—

4               “(A) shall consider the results of the most  
5               recent examination of the eligible entity under  
6               paragraph (1);

7               “(B) shall determine if—

8               “(i) the eligible entity has failed to  
9               provide, or provided inadequate, informa-  
10               tion under paragraph (1)(A); or

11               “(ii) the eligible entity has failed to  
12               provide any information required to be pro-  
13               vided by a women’s business center for  
14               purposes of the management report under  
15               subsection (m)(1), or the information pro-  
16               vided by the center is inadequate; and

17               “(C) shall consider the accreditation status  
18               as described in subsection (k)(4).

19               “(3) ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Assistant  
20               Administrator shall work with the Women’s Busi-  
21               ness Center Association recognized under subsection  
22               (f)(5) (as applicable) to develop, implement, and  
23               maintain policies and procedures for conducting fi-  
24               nancial examinations under this subsection and to

1        maintain internal controls that ensure that such fi-  
2        nancial examinations are conducted properly.

3        “(h) NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIRED.—The Ad-  
4        ministrator may only make a change to the standards by  
5        which an eligible entity obtains or maintains grants under  
6        this section, the standards for accreditation, or any other  
7        requirement for the operation of a women’s business cen-  
8        ter if the Administrator first provides notice and the op-  
9        portunity for public comment, as set forth in section  
10      553(b) of title 5, United States Code, without regard to  
11      any exceptions provided for under such section.

12      “(i) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

13        “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity that  
14        receives a grant under this section may enter into a  
15        contract with a Federal department or agency to  
16        provide specific assistance to small business concerns  
17        owned and controlled by women and other under-  
18        served small business concerns, if performance of  
19        such a contract does not hinder the ability of the eli-  
20        gible entity to carry out the terms of a grant re-  
21        ceived under this section.

22        “(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The authority of the  
23        Administrator to enter into contracts shall be in ef-  
24        fect for each fiscal year only to the extent and in the  
25        amounts as are provided in advance in appropria-

1       tions Acts. After the Administrator has entered into  
2       a contract, either as a grant or a cooperative agree-  
3       ment, with any applicant under this section, the Ad-  
4       ministrator shall not suspend, terminate, or fail to  
5       renew or extend any such contract unless the Ad-  
6       ministrator provides the applicant with written noti-  
7       fication setting forth the reasons therefore and af-  
8       fords the applicant an opportunity for a hearing, ap-  
9       peal, or other administrative proceeding under chap-  
10      ter 5 of title 5, United States Code.

11      “(j) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

12      “(1) IN GENERAL.—A women’s business center  
13      may not disclose the name, address, or telephone  
14      number of any individual or small business concern  
15      receiving assistance under this section without the  
16      consent of such individual or small business concern,  
17      unless—

18      “(A) the Administrator orders such disclo-  
19      sure after the Administrator is ordered to make  
20      such a disclosure by a court in any civil or  
21      criminal enforcement action initiated by a Fed-  
22      eral or State agency; or

23      “(B) the Administrator considers such a  
24      disclosure to be necessary for the purpose of  
25      conducting a financial audit of a women’s busi-

1           ness center, except that such a disclosure shall  
2           be limited to the information necessary for such  
3           audit.

4           **“(2) ADMINISTRATION USE OF INFORMATION.—**

5           This subsection shall not—

6               “(A) restrict Administration access to  
7               women’s business center data; or

8               “(B) prevent the Administration from  
9               using information about individuals who use  
10              women’s business centers to conduct surveys of  
11              such individuals.

12           **“(3) REGULATIONS.—**The Administrator shall  
13           issue regulations to establish standards for disclo-  
14           sures for purposes of a financial audit described  
15           under paragraph (1)(B).

16           **“(k) OFFICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—**

17               **“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—**There is established  
18               within the Administration an Office of Women’s  
19               Business Ownership, which shall be responsible for  
20               the administration of the Administration’s programs  
21               for the development of women’s business enterprises  
22               (as defined in section 408 of the Women’s Business  
23               Ownership Act of 1988). The Office of Women’s  
24               Business Ownership shall be administered by an As-

1 sistant Administrator, who shall be appointed by the  
2 Administrator.

3 “(2) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OF-  
4 FICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—

5 “(A) QUALIFICATION.—The position of As-  
6 sistant Administrator shall be a Senior Execu-  
7 tive Service position under section 3132(a)(2)  
8 of title 5, United States Code. The Assistant  
9 Administrator shall serve as a noncareer ap-  
10 pointee (as defined in section 3132(a)(7) of  
11 that title).

12 “(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Adminis-  
13 trator shall administer the programs and serv-  
14 ices of the Office of Women’s Business Owner-  
15 ship and perform the following functions:

16 “(i) Recommend the annual adminis-  
17 trative and program budgets of the Office  
18 and eligible entities receiving a grant  
19 under the Women’s Business Center Pro-  
20 gram.

21 “(ii) Review the annual budgets sub-  
22 mitted by each eligible entity receiving a  
23 grant under the Women’s Business Center  
24 Program.

1                     “(iii) Collaborate with other Federal  
2                     departments and agencies, State and local  
3                     governments, not-for-profit organizations,  
4                     and for-profit organizations to maximize  
5                     utilization of taxpayer dollars and reduce  
6                     (or eliminate) any duplication among the  
7                     programs overseen by the Office of Wom-  
8                     en’s Business Ownership and those of  
9                     other entities that provide similar services  
10                    to women entrepreneurs.

11                    “(iv) Maintain a clearinghouse to pro-  
12                    vide for the dissemination and exchange of  
13                    information between women’s business cen-  
14                    ters.

15                    “(v) Serve as the vice chairperson of  
16                    the Interagency Committee on Women’s  
17                    Business Enterprise and as the liaison for  
18                    the National Women’s Business Council.

19                    “(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of  
20                    Women’s Business Ownership shall be to assist  
21                    women entrepreneurs to start, grow, and compete in  
22                    global markets by providing quality support with ac-  
23                    cess to capital, access to markets, job creation,  
24                    growth, and counseling by—

1               “(A) fostering participation of women en-  
2 trepreneurs in the economy by overseeing a net-  
3 work of women’s business centers throughout  
4 States and territories;

5               “(B) creating public-private partnerships  
6 to support women entrepreneurs and conduct  
7 outreach and education to small business con-  
8 cerns owned and controlled by women; and

9               “(C) working with other programs of the  
10 Administrator to—

11               “(i) ensure women are well-rep-  
12 resented in those programs and being  
13 served by those programs; and

14               “(ii) identify gaps where participation  
15 by women in those programs could be in-  
16 creased.

17               “(4) ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.—

18               “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than  
19 270 days after the date of enactment of this  
20 paragraph, the Administrator shall publish  
21 standards for a program to accredit eligible en-  
22 tities that receive a grant under this section.

23               “(B) PUBLIC COMMENT; TRANSITION.—  
24 Before publishing the standards under subpara-  
25 graph (A), the Administrator—

1                         “(i) shall provide a period of not less  
2                         than 60 days for public comment on such  
3                         standards; and

4                         “(ii) may not terminate a grant under  
5                         this section absent evidence of fraud or  
6                         other criminal misconduct by the recipient.

7                         “(C) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Ad-  
8                         ministrator may provide financial support, by  
9                         contract or otherwise, to a Women’s Business  
10                         Center Association to provide assistance in es-  
11                         tablishing the standards required under sub-  
12                         paragraph (A) or for carrying out an accredita-  
13                         tion program pursuant to such standards.

14                         “(5) CONTINUATION GRANT CONSIDER-  
15                         ATIONS.—

16                         “(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether  
17                         to award a continuation grant under this sec-  
18                         tion, the Administrator shall consider the re-  
19                         sults of the annual programmatic and financial  
20                         examination conducted under subsection (g)  
21                         and the accreditation program.

22                         “(B) ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.—  
23                         After the end of the 2-year period beginning on  
24                         the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
25                         Administration may not award a continuation

1           grant under this section unless the applicable  
2           eligible entity has been approved under the ac-  
3           creditation program conducted pursuant to this  
4           subsection, except that the Assistant Adminis-  
5           trator for the Office of Women's Business Own-  
6           ership may waive such accreditation require-  
7           ment, in the discretion of the Assistant Adminin-  
8           istrator, upon a showing that the eligible entity  
9           is making a good faith effort to obtain accredi-  
10           tation.

11           “(6) ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—Each women's  
12           business center shall participate in annual profes-  
13           sional development at an annual conference facili-  
14           tated by a Women's Business Center Association.

15           “(l) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE  
16 WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—The Adminis-  
17 trator shall provide the following:

18           “(1) A public announcement of any opportunity  
19           to be awarded grants under this section, to include  
20           the selection criteria under subsection (d) and any  
21           applicable regulations.

22           “(2) To any applicant for a grant under this  
23           section that failed to obtain such a grant, an oppor-  
24           tunity to debrief with the Administrator to review  
25           the reasons for the applicant's failure.

1           “(3) To an eligible entity that receives an initial  
2 grant under this section, if a site visit or review of  
3 the eligible entity is carried out by an officer or em-  
4 ployee of the Administration (other than the Inspec-  
5 tor General), a copy of the site visit report or eval-  
6 uation, as applicable, within 30 calendar days of the  
7 completion of such visit or evaluation.

8         “(m) ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall  
10 prepare and submit to the Committee on Small  
11 Business of the House of Representatives and the  
12 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
13 of the Senate an annual report on the effectiveness  
14 of women’s business centers operated through a  
15 grant awarded under this section.

16           “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under  
17 paragraph (1) shall include—

18           “(A) information concerning, with respect  
19 to each women’s business center established  
20 pursuant to a grant awarded under this section,  
21 the most recent analysis of the annual pro-  
22 grammatic and financial examination of the ap-  
23 plicable eligible entity, as required under sub-  
24 section (g)(1)(B), and the subsequent deter-

1 mination made by the Administration under  
2 that subsection;

3 “(B) the number of persons counseled and  
4 trained through the Women’s Business Center  
5 Program;

6 “(C) the total number of hours of coun-  
7 seling and training through the Program;

8 “(D) the demographics of Program partici-  
9 pants to include gender, race, and age of each  
10 such participant;

11 “(E) the number of Program participants  
12 who are veterans;

13 “(F) the number of new businesses started  
14 by participants in the Program;

15 “(G) to the extent practicable, the number  
16 of jobs supported, created or retained with as-  
17 sistance from women’s business centers;

18 “(H) the amount of capital secured by par-  
19 ticipants in the Program, including through  
20 loans and equity investment;

21 “(I) the number of participants in the Pro-  
22 gram receiving financial assistance, including  
23 the type and dollar amount, under the loan pro-  
24 grams of the Administration;

1               “(J) an estimate of gross receipts, includ-  
2               ing to the extent practicable a description of  
3               any change in revenue of small business con-  
4               cerns assisted through the Program;

5               “(K) to the maximum extent practicable,  
6               increases or decreases in revenues for the as-  
7               sisted small business concerns;

8               “(L) the number of referrals made to other  
9               resources and programs of the Administration;

10               “(M) the results of satisfaction surveys of  
11               participants, including a summary of any com-  
12               ments received from such participants; and

13               “(N) any recommendations by the Admin-  
14               istrator to improve the delivery of services by  
15               women’s business centers.

16               “(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17               “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
18               appropriated to the Administration to carry out this  
19               section, to remain available until expended,  
20               \$31,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through  
21               2025.

22               “(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

23               “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
24               subparagraph (B), amounts made available  
25               under this subsection for fiscal year 2022, and

1           each fiscal year thereafter, may only be used for  
2           grant awards and may not be used for costs in-  
3           curred by the Administration in connection with  
4           the management and administration of the pro-  
5           gram under this section.

6           “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Of the amount made  
7           available under this subsection for a fiscal year,  
8           the following amounts shall be available for  
9           costs incurred by the Administration in connec-  
10          tion with the management and administration  
11          of the program under this section:

12           “(i) For the first fiscal year beginning  
13           after the date of the enactment of this sub-  
14           paragraph, 2.65 percent.

15           “(ii) For the second fiscal year begin-  
16           ning after the date of the enactment of  
17           this subparagraph and each fiscal year  
18           thereafter through fiscal year 2025, 2.5  
19           percent.

20           “(3) EXPEDITED ACQUISITION.—Notwith-  
21           standing any other provision of law, the Adminis-  
22           trator may use such expedited acquisition methods  
23           as the Administrator determines to be appropriate to  
24           carry out this section, except that the Administrator

1 shall ensure that all small business sources are pro-  
2 vided a reasonable opportunity to submit proposals.

3                 “(4) ACCREDITATION AND ANNUAL CON-  
4 FERENCE.—Not less than \$500,000 of the amounts  
5 appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for a fiscal  
6 year shall be available for purposes of carrying out  
7 subsection (k), of which no less than \$50,000 shall  
8 be available to support an annual conference de-  
9 scribed under subsection (k)(6).”.

10 **SEC. 3. EFFECT ON EXISTING GRANTS.**

11                 (a) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A nonprofit organiza-  
12 tion receiving a grant under section 29(m) of the Small  
13 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day  
14 before the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue  
15 to receive the grant under the terms and conditions in ef-  
16 fect for the grant on the day before the date of enactment  
17 of this Act, except that the nonprofit organization may  
18 not apply for a continuation of the grant under section  
19 29(m)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
20 656(m)(5)), as in effect on the day before the date of en-  
21 actment of this Act.

22                 (b) LENGTH OF CONTINUATION GRANT.—The Ad-  
23 ministrator of the Small Business Administration may  
24 award a grant under section 29 of the Small Business Act,  
25 as amended by this Act, to a nonprofit organization receiv-

1 ing a grant under section 29(m) of the Small Business  
2 Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day before  
3 the date of enactment of this Act, for the period—

4                 (1) beginning on the day after the last day of  
5                 the grant agreement under such section 29(m); and  
6                 (2) ending at the end of the third fiscal year be-  
7                 ginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

9                 Not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-  
10         ment of this Act, the Administrator of Small Business Ad-  
11         ministration shall issue such rules as are necessary to  
12         carry out section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
13         656), as amended by this Act, and ensure that a period  
14         of public comment for such rules is not less than 60 days.

